Streamlining of Office of DG, Labour Welfare

235. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

whether Government are taking steps to give positive response to suggestions from trade unions;

whether office of DG, Labour Welfare has been streamlined in this regard;

whether it is a fact that DG, Labour Welfare has become more responsive to suggestions from trade unions; and

the steps proposed to extend powers of DG, Labour Welfare?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) Suggestions from trade unions are given due weightage and importance by Government and the same will be continued. The functions and responsibilities assigned to DG, Labour Welfare are determined keeping in view the legal operational and administrative requirements.

Children in Bidi Sector in Andhra Pradesh

236. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

the number of children in Andhra Pradesh employed in the bidi sector;

whether there has been a fall in the number of children employed in Andhra Pradesh in the bidi sector; and

if so, whether school and other facilities have been set up for these children?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) As per 1981 census, the total working children in Andhra Pradesh was 1.95 million. According to 1991 census, the total number of working children in the state is 1.66 million indicating a fall in the number of children working in Andhra Pradesh. Industry-wise information on the employment of children is not available.

(c) Government have already taken steps for the rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations including the bidi industry through the National Child Labour Project. These projects are under implementation in 11 States including Andhra Pradesh. For the State of Andhra Pradesh, 20 such child labour projects have been sanctioned for coverage of nearly 43,000 children. Under the project, children are withdrawn from work and put in special schools where they are provided with non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend etc.

Financial assistance for imparting industrial training to women in Bihar

237. SHRI GYAN RAN J AN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance provided for imparting industrial training to women, institution-wise in the state of Bihar during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any monitoring is also done by Government to ensure proper utilisation of the financial assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The details of financial assistance provided for imparting industrial training to women, institutewise in Bihar during the last three years, is annexed as Statement *(See* below)

(c) and (d) To ensure proper utilisation of financial assistance, State Directorate has set up a State Project Implementation Unit to monitor and review the progress of the scheme.

(e) Does not arise.